(c) if so, what concrete measures for exploration and production of oil have been taken by Government so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Quantity and value of import of crude oil and import of petroleum products depends upon the over all demand, indigenous production and prices prevailing in the international market.

(b) ONGC had earlier estimated production of 32.80 MMT of crude oil including condensate in Jan. 96 for the Oil Economy Budget. The estimated production of crude oil and condensate by ONGC during the current year is 29.204 representing a shortfall of 3.596 MMT. Further at the current rate of withdrawals, the presently estimated reserves of oil in the Western Off-shore will last for about 21 years.

(c) Various steps being taken by the Government for exploration and production of oil are:—

1. Implementation of new projects/ schemes and additional development of existing fields.

2. Implementation of EOR Schemes and extending some of EOR's Schemes from pilot scale to full scale field application.

3. Implementation of specialised technologies such as ERD, side track, horizontal and drain hole drilling.

4. Obtaining services of international experts wherever considered necessary.

5. 3-D seismic survey of the oil fields.

6. Rectificatory measures such as aggressive workovers, use of specialised technologies like long/short drift side track, drain hole have been planned for revival of side wells which still have potential.

7. Encouraging the participation of private/joint venture in the oil sector.

8. Enhancing exploration of hydrocarbon and increasing reserves through seismic surveys, deep water exploration and exporation in frontier areas.

Shortage of Funds for Expansion Schemes of ONGC

627. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ONGC is likely to fall short of funds by about Rs. 8000 crores to finance its expansion schemes and execute its planned projects;

(b) whether the ONGC expects to meet 80% of the Ninth Five Year Plan funds requirements through internal resource generation;

(c) whether any concrete steps have been taken in this regard; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) As per the IXth Plan outlay of Rs. 24099 crores as projected during the formulation of ONGC's Annual Plan 1997-98, the tentative shortfall would be of the order of about Rs. 7256 crores.

(b) Based on the current level of producer prices of the oil and gas, ONGC expects to fund about 70% of its projected outlay for the IXth Plan period out of internal resources.

(c) and (d) The shortfall is proposed to be funded through an appropriate mix of debt and equity, depending upon the prevailing market conditions.

Recommendations of Vijay Kelkar Committee

628. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to deregulate the oil sector; and